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Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES  
EDITOR

Three More Human  
Beings Die of Rabies.

During the latter part of April, a child living in Los Angeles was bitten by a stray dog. The animal was chased out of the yard and has not been seen since. The wound was cauterized and no ill effects were noted until July 10th. Pasteur treatment had not been given. On July 11th the child was taken to the hospital. He died in convulsions the following day.

About the middle of May a child was bitten by a stray dog. The child's father, while attempting to protect the child from the animal's attack, was bitten on the hand. No treatment of any kind was received. About the middle of August the father was taken to the hospital while in a delirious condition, supposed to be suffering from pneumonia. He died the following day and laboratory examination showed that he suffered from rabies. The child, bitten at the same time as his father, began the Pasteur treatment as soon as the cause of his father's death was determined. No symptoms of rabies have appeared in the child.

Two children in Los Angeles County were bitten by a stray dog on May 28th. A physician cauterized the wound with carbolic acid, as he had no concentrated nitric acid available. Pasteur treatment was started at once. One of these chil-

dren received deep wounds on the face. He developed symptoms of rabies and died exactly twenty-six days after the attack by the dog. Bites on the face, near nerve centers, make the effectiveness of Pasteur treatment less certain than superficial bites on the extremities. Cauterization with concentrated nitric acid of wounds caused by dog bites is the only cauterizing agent that is of any value in such cases. Pasteur treatment is nearly always effective in the prevention of rabies, but occasionally the disease develops in spite of proper cauterization and prompt administration of the Pasteur treatment when the individual is bitten on areas in close proximity to nerve centers.

These three deaths were all due to infection transmitted by stray dogs. Similar suffering and deaths of children and parents, as well, must be expected in any communities where no provision is made for the control of stray dogs. Vaccination of dogs against rabies is practical and positive in the prevention of the disease. Toleration of stray dogs in any community constitutes an invitation to suffering and death. No human being who has shown the first symptoms of rabies has ever recovered. The Pasteur treatment is preventive only.

It is unfortunate that these tragic deaths occur in California, when their prevention is possible in nearly all cases. Eleven persons in California sacrificed their lives to rabies last year and there

Health Officers' Convention, Del Monte, October 6, 1924.



have been five deaths from the disease in this state since January 1, 1924. More deaths from this disease must be expected wherever no measures are taken in the control of the dog population, for rabies has never been more prevalent in the state than during the past year.

### Hotel Rates for Health Officers' Convention.

Following are the hotel rates at Del Monte, Monterey and Pacific Grove hotels for the Health Officers' Convention, to be held at Del Monte, October 6, 7 and 8. Reservations should be made without delay.

#### Hotel Del Monte.

	Per day
Single room with bath.....	\$9 00
Single room without bath.....	7 50
Double room and bath, 2 persons.....	17 00
Double room, no bath, 2 persons.....	14 00
Two single rooms, bath between.....	9 00
Two double rooms, bath between.....	8 00
(To accommodate four persons.)	

#### Hotel Monterey.

Single room with bath.....	2 50
Single room without bath.....	1 50
Double room with bath.....	3 50
Double room without bath.....	2 50

#### Hotel Federal.

Single room .....	1 25
Double room .....	\$2 00 to 2 50
(No private baths in the hotel.)	

#### Hotel Caspar.

Single room .....	1 50
Double room .....	2 00
(No private baths in the hotel.)	

#### Hotel Royal.

Single room .....	\$1 50 to 2 00
Double room .....	1 50 to 2 00
(No private baths in the hotel.)	

#### Hotel Kimball.

Single room without bath.....	2 00
Double room without bath.....	2 50
Double room with bath.....	4 00
Suite for 4 people, with bath.....	7 00

#### Pacific Grove Hotels.

Centrella: \$1 to \$2.50 per day; meals 50 cents each.	
Del Mar: Single, \$1.50; with bath, \$2.50; double, \$2.50-\$3.50 per day.	
Home Inn: Single, room and board, \$15; double, \$28 per week.	
El Carmello Inn: \$10 to \$16 per week, European.	

It is not life to live but to be well.—  
Martial.

Why shouldst thou die before thy time?—  
Ecclesiastes XII:18.

Life is the gift of God and is divine.—  
Longfellow.

### The New Demand for Scientific Health Procedures.

H. G. Wells, in an article published some time ago in an American magazine, ventured the statement that the development of mechanical devices used by man in the advancement of his civilization, particularly those devices that speed transportation and communication, have about reached the climax in their development. He stated, further, that science is now directing its efforts to the advancement of man himself, to the development of his social institutions and mode of living. Since this article was published, books and magazines expounding similar ideas have appeared in great profusion. One writer states that the couplet of Pope,

"Know then thyself! Presume not God to scan,

The proper study of mankind is man," has taken on a new significance, that modern science is devoting its energies to making human life more desirable and worth while.

None of these writers state specifically that preventive medicine is one of the big factors in the scientific advancement of mankind, but the inference is unmistakable. As a matter of fact, scientific preventive medicine is far in advance of public support. If the general public were to take advantage of all the attributes of scientific medicine and public health that are available at the present time, the immediate advancement of our civilization would be so astounding as to be beyond the comprehension of the average individual. There are resources now ready for application that will add many years to human life. For the most part, however, they are used in a very limited degree. To be sure, there is a growing demand for the application of scientific procedures in public health and it is undoubtedly only a matter of time before these procedures will come into common everyday use. One of the highest duties of health officials lies in exerting every effort to make these procedures a matter of common knowledge and to gain public confidence in modern scientific methods.

Immunization against diphtheria and scarlet fever is available now, but really few children have been immunized against diphtheria and similar protection against scarlet fever is so new that its general use at the present time can not be expected. When the difficulties connected with immunization against smallpox are considered, it would seem that it is well nigh impossible to convince every man that these communicable dis-



eases can be prevented. Public health officials know that smallpox, diphtheria, scarlet fever and typhoid can absolutely be placed under control, and that Pasteur was right when he said, many years ago, that these infectious diseases can be made to disappear. The problem lies in how best to go about the task of convincing the general public of the fact and how to secure its full cooperation in placing these diseases under control. The outlook at the present time is hopeful and the demand for all the attributes that make for public health is increasing day by day. With the general development of the scientific spirit, interest in public health will grow by leaps and bounds. Health officials who are not ready to meet the tremendous demand that is sure to come will fall by the wayside. It would seem that we are entering the most portentous period in the history of the new public health. No health official can afford not to know what is being accomplished along the lines of preventive medicine everywhere; nor can he afford not to be prepared to apply successful preventive methods in his own community.

### Advances in Scarlet Fever Control To Be Discussed.

The program for the Health Officers' Section of the League of California Municipalities to be held at Del Monte, October 6-8, 1924, will be ready for publishing in an early issue of the WEEKLY BULLETIN. It may be announced now, however, that the recent advances in the control of scarlet fever will be an important subject upon the program. It is certain that demonstrations of the Dick test for determining immunity to scarlet fever will be performed. Demonstrations of vaccination against smallpox, diphtheria immunization and standard laboratory procedures will also be made.

The Santa Ana typhoid epidemic will form the basis for a full discussion of typhoid fever control. Food poisoning with relation to the paratyphoid group will be the subject of a paper and the control of rabies will be under discussion. The last named subject is important, because of the wide prevalence of rabies in California. Public health nursing will be the subject for a full session of the health officers' section. The relationship and duties of the public health nurse toward the public, the health officer and the physician will be outlined by nurse and health officers who are qualified to handle this important subject.

Public health nurses have been invited to attend all sessions of the conference

and a large attendance is expected. All persons who contemplate attending these meetings should reserve their hotel accommodations at once, as facilities for housing the large number of delegates are limited. A list of hotels, together with schedule of rates for the conference, is published in this issue of the BULLETIN.

### No Health Examinations in School Obligatory.

The editor of the *Orland Unit* has the following to say regarding the exemption of children from physical examination in the schools:

"Parents may have their children exempted from any physical examination in school if they wish. Exemption cards can be secured, and the children may then be allowed to go through school without any attempt on the part of the school authorities at helping them overcome the physical disabilities that their parents have failed to discover, or to help remedy. It is a great victory for the 'personal independence' forces.

School health supervision has led to the discovery that many thousands of children who have been dubbed dunces have in fact been the victims of poor eyesight or hearing or some nervous disorder that has unfitted them for study, or some infection of the teeth that has been undermining their health. Many children have been found in the incipient stages of some disease that has needed immediate attention, and, as a result of the discovery by the school authorities, have been started on the road to health and normal development.

But all this is vigorously fought and bitterly denounced by some certain classes that seem to prefer to allow their children to suffer any disadvantage, to grow up to a maturity of physical deformity or disease or weakness, and corresponding mental lack of equipment, rather than acknowledge the existence of such conditions. It is seemingly considered a great victory over some mythical 'medical trust' and the principle apparently is treasured as more precious than the lives and happiness of the children.

If a child's mouth hangs open because of adenoids, or he fails in his school work because his eyes hurt him too much to study or he has to stay out of school now and then through disease of the tonsils, it is a violation of the right of an American citizen to suffer in any way they choose, to allow a teacher to advise corrective measures. What if he does grow up to be only 70 per cent of a man—haven't his parents always paid their taxes?"



**MORBIDITY.\*****Diphtheria.**

116 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 22, San Francisco 17, Oakland 21, Los Angeles County 14, Pasadena 5, Santa Rosa 1, Sonoma County 3, Kern County 2, Stanislaus County 2, Newman 1, Loyalton 2, Sacramento 1, Richmond 1, Berkeley 2, Long Beach 3, San Diego 2, Santa Clara County 1, Pacific Grove 1, Oxnard 4, Stockton 1, Hermosa Beach 1, Alhambra 1, Compton 1, Sacramento County 1, South Gate 1, Burbank 1, Alameda 3, San Bernardino 1.

**Measles.**

16 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 5, Seal Beach 1, San Francisco 1, Los Angeles County 1, Long Beach 2, Oakland 1, Pasadena 1, Orange County 1, Sacramento 1, Inyo County 2.

**Scarlet Fever.**

44 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 13, Santa Ana 5, Manhattan Beach 1, Kern County 1, South Gate 1, Los Angeles County 2, El Dorado County 1, San Diego 1, Alameda 1, Stockton 4, Sutter County 3, Long Beach 1, San Francisco 2, Watsonville 1, Hanford 2, Fullerton 1, San Diego County 3, Fresno 1.

**Smallpox.**

55 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 18, Los Angeles

15, Compton 5, Fresno County 1, Fresno 1, South Gate 1, Long Beach 2, Glendale 1, Colton 1, Elsinore 1, Sacramento 3, San Francisco 1, Alhambra 2, Riverside 2, Oakland 1.

**Typhoid Fever.**

17 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 6, Santa Clara County 1, Los Angeles County 3, Siskiyou County 1, Yreka 1, Oakland 1, Alameda 1, Sacramento County 1, Santa Ana 1, Sacramento 1.

**Whooping Cough.**

37 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 11, Los Angeles County 8, Pasadena 5, San Francisco 3, Woodland 3, Riverside 1, San Diego 1, Alameda 1, Glendale 1, Oakland 1, Santa Maria 2.

**Cerebrospinal Meningitis.**

Siskiyou County reported 1 case of cerebrospinal meningitis.

**Poliomyelitis.**

2 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, 1 from Los Angeles and 1 from Fresno County.

**Epidemic Encephalitis.**

San Francisco reported 1 case of epidemic encephalitis.

\*From reports received on September 8, 9 and 10, for week ending September 6.

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS.**

DISEASES	1924				1923			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending Sept. 6 received by Sept. 10	Week ending			Reports for week ending Sept. 9 received by Sept. 11
	Aug. 16	Aug. 23	Aug. 30		Aug. 18	Aug. 25	Sept. 1	
Anthrax.....	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Botulism.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebrospinal Meningitis.....	3	2	2	1	3	1	0	1
Chickenpox.....	41	23	26	21	13	21	40	27
Diphtheria.....	104	108	157	116	116	130	121	129
Dysentery (Bacillary).....	11	1	19	0	17	7	2	0
Epidemic Encephalitis.....	2	2	5	1	1	3	4	0
Epidemic Jaundice.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gonorrhoea.....	270	97	69	60	77	62	95	103
Influenza.....	5	2	8	3	4	5	4	5
Leprosy.....	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Malaria.....	0	2	2	0	8	3	8	1
Measles.....	23	50	38	16	170	167	215	159
Mumps.....	10	23	16	30	5	7	6	2
Pneumonia.....	19	16	101	25	82	16	26	20
Poliomyelitis.....	1	1	5	2	5	3	7	2
Rabies (human).....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever.....	33	36	37	44	43	43	45	33
Smallpox.....	53	41	49	55	17	17	16	4
Syphilis.....	255	72	74	99	73	86	67	168
Tuberculosis.....	156	131	156	88	162	183	154	155
Typhoid Fever.....	8	32	27	17	47	25	23	11
Typhus Fever.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough.....	67	44	74	37	86	53	36	27
Totals.....	1062	684	866	615	920	832	872	847

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